

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 20 of 1881.]

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 14th May 1881.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Calcutta	2,100	
2	"Grāmvārtā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	175	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
3	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong	600	3rd May 1881.
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
5	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	700	9th ditto.
6	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto	.....	6th and 13th May 1881.
7	"Bhārat Bandhu"	Ditto	.....
8	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	671	3rd May 1881.
9	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Burdwān	296	10th ditto.
11	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	350	8th ditto.
12	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	6th ditto.
13	"Hindu Ranjika"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	11th ditto.
14	"Medinī"	Midnapore	.....	6th ditto.
15	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	487	
16	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Ditto	.....
17	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta	850	2nd ditto.
18	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet	.....	1st ditto.
19	"Pratikār"	Berhampore	275	13th ditto.
20	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kakiniā, Rungpore	250	5th ditto.
21	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah	500	10th ditto.
22	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	9th ditto.
23	"Som Prakāsh"	Changripottā, 24-Perghs.	.....	9th ditto.
24	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta	4,000	7th ditto.
25	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet	440	2nd ditto.
26	"Tripurā Vārtāvaha"	Commillah	.....	7th ditto.
<i>Daily.</i>				
27	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Calcutta	700	6th to 10th & 12th & 13th May 1881.
28	"Samvād Pūrnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	7th to 13th May 1881.
29	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	9th to 11th & 13th & 14th May 1881.
30	"Banga Vidya Prakāshikā"	Ditto	500	7th to 9th & 11th to 13th ditto.
31	"Prabhāti"	Ditto	.....	9th to 13th May 1881.
32	"Samāchār Sudhābarsan"	Ditto	.....
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
33	"Urdu Guide"	Ditto	365	
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
34	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	500	
35	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	500	
36	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	200	
37	"Uchit Baktā"	Ditto	.....
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
38	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	
ASSAMESE.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
39	"Assam Vilāsini"	Sibsagar	.....

POLITICAL.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
May 2nd, 1881.

The *Navavibhakar*, of the 2nd May, notices an article on the "Future of India" contributed to the *Contemporary Review* by Mr. Herbert Taylor. The writer

does not appear to know much of India, and his statements and suggestions are marked by great inaccuracy, and evince a lack of sympathy with the people of this country.

BHARAT MIHIR,
May 3rd, 1881.

2. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 3rd May, remarks that by its indiscriminate bestowal of titles of distinction Government has lowered their value in the eyes of the

public. Formerly it was not without great difficulty that one could feast one's eyes with the sight of a Raja, but now a Raja is met with in every street. How many Rajas and Raya Bahadurs have sprung into existence after the famine? The Cabul War alone has brought hundreds of decorations to hundreds of soldiers. Every one, it seems, that went to Cabul fought bravely against the Afghans. Even the bearers who accompanied the British Army must have shaken the spheres by their courage. The Imperial Assemblage held at Delhi by Lord Lytton was but a shop where titles were offered for sale. Such lavish distribution of honor not only lowers their value, but is also extremely demoralizing. Merit, indeed, should be rewarded, but to honor the undeserving is to abuse the old and sacred terms expressive of the honor, and to offer an insult to the truly deserving.

BHARAT MIHIR.

3. The same paper is exceedingly gratified at finding that the promise made by the liberal leaders to evacuate Candahar, even before they had come to power,

has been fulfilled. To let go the fruits of a conquest, even if it was based on injustice is not an easy task, and is impossible to all others except those just and high-principled persons who ever shrink from the idea of supporting a wrong action. There can, therefore, be no doubt that the abandonment of Candahar by the Liberals has had the effect of enhancing the glory of England, and of placing "British prestige" on securer foundations.

ANANDA BASAR
PATRIKA,
May 9th, 1881.

4. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 9th May, beseeches Lord Ripon to take the case of Mulharrao Guicowar into his favourable consideration and deliver him from the hands of Dr. Seward.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
May 2nd, 1881.

5. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Navavibhakar*, of the 2nd May, headed "Independence is the life of Municipalities":—The

Municipalities in this country. British nation are our teachers, and we cannot disregard their teachings without bringing them into disrepute. We earnestly hope that our representatives in the Municipal Councils of the country will advance unchecked in the path marked out for them. To gain one's ends is not an easy task; and the Municipal Commissioners should be prepared to meet with difficulties and obstacles thrown in their way by their rulers. They have always the right to seek to enhance their authority by honest and constitutional means; and the rulers will never be able to take away this right. Governors who lack foresight and possess but narrow views will, of course, encroach upon the independence of municipalities and seek in other ways to injure them; nay, they may even flatter themselves with the notion that they have succeeded in their wicked attempts, but justice will in the end triumph, and in course of time the municipalities in this country will come to enjoy greater independence than what they now possess. The treatment which the Municipality of Calcutta, the chief of

such institutions, has received at the hands of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal may give a fair idea of the condition of the minor and obscure municipalities in the mofussil. Their difficulties and troubles will not come to an end so long as Sir Ashley Eden remains in power. It is, however, gratifying to notice the display of energy made by the rate-payers of Calcutta in memorializing the Viceroy against the new Municipal Bill. It now rests with His Excellency to establish his claim to be styled a Friend of India by granting the prayer of the memorialists. Otherwise, he will come to be regarded as a Friend of India in the same sense in which Sir Ashley Eden is regarded as a Friend of Bengal.

6. In another article on the same subject, the same paper fully approves of the sentiments of the memorial made to His Excellency by the rate-payers of Calcutta against certain portions of the new Calcutta Municipal Bill.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
May 2nd, 1881.

7. It is remarked by the same paper that the European Judges in this country show a partiality for severe sentences. They almost always award the severest punishment that the law authorizes them to inflict. Instances of this are common in the mofussil. The fact is, Englishmen are by nature of a somewhat stern disposition, and are very fond of fighting and going to blows on the slightest provocation. They inflict a severe punishment where a lighter one would meet all the requirements of the case. Of course, there are noble exceptions. The Editor then proceeds to give the details of a case published in the *Madras Mail* in which a person is stated to have now suffered imprisonment in a lunatic asylum for many years, although according to the testimony of medical officers he has all along possessed a perfectly sound mind.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

8. The same paper directs the attention of Sir Ashley Eden to the case of Baboo Rajkristo Banerjee, Overseer in the Durbhunga district, who has recently been dismissed from the public service on the representation of his official superior, Mr. Küster, the Road Cess Engineer of the district. The Baboo has served Government with great ability and faithfulness for many years past, and the treatment he has received at the hands of Mr. Küster is quite unaccountable. Indeed, the latter seems to have conceived a dislike for him from the moment he came in contact with him in Durbhunga.

9. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 3rd May, remarks in reference to the powerful deputation which recently waited upon the Secretary of State on the subject of education in India, and to the reply made by Lord Hartington that a small section of low-minded Europeans in this country are apparently determined upon the abolition of high education. The people of India cannot forget the good which high education has conferred upon them, nor can these men, on the other hand, the injury to their interests which has been caused by it. The Editor heartily desires the spread of education among the masses, and believes that but a beginning has been made in this direction. It is desirable that high education should proceed hand-in-hand with primary education, but it is not desirable that the fabric of the latter should be reared over the grave of the former. Lord Hartington gave a fitting reply to the deputation.

BHARAT MIHIR,
May 3rd, 1881.

10. The same paper remarks that Government may now, in revising the establishment of the Allahabad High Court, safely reduce the number of Judges to four. If, in the interests of Civilians, it were opposed to this idea, it could at least abolish the post of Judicial Commissioner of Lucknow, by transferring all judicial work in Oudh, particularly that connected with appeals to the Allahabad High Court.

BHARAT MIHIR.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
May 6th, 1881.

11. The *Education Gazette*, of the 6th May, directs the attention of Sir Ashley Eden to the necessity of keeping a steamer on the Pudma below Shiválaya, for the purpose of enabling passengers to cross over the river with safety. The number of those who have to cross over the Pudma at this place is very large, whilst it is extremely unsafe to do this by means of the small country-boats. Indeed, the necessity of keeping a steamer is so well recognized, that private enterprise would have long since supplied the want but for the high and prohibitive price at which the ghât is yearly leased out by Government. Government should, therefore, itself supply the want. It is certain it will be no loser if the suggestion here made is carried out.

ARYA DARPAN,
May 6th, 1881.

12. The *Arya Darpan*, of the 6th May, regrets to have to notice that the number of liquor-shops in Calcutta has largely increased during the last month, and more shops are likely to be opened very soon. The good old practice of selling licenses by auction to the highest bidder has been discontinued, and application to set up shops for the vend of English-made liquor is being freely granted by the Collector of Calcutta. It is not clear why the power to grant these licenses has been transferred from the Commissioner of Police to that officer, whose interest it is to shew an increase of excise revenue. A stimulus has been given to intemperance among the inhabitants of the metropolis, and the result has been similar to what the introduction of the out-still system has produced in the mofussil. It is further noteworthy that in Calcutta licenses to open liquor-shops in any particular quarter are being granted even in spite of the protests of the inhabitants thereof. The whole subject should receive the attention of Government.

ARYA DARPAN.

13. The same paper does not see any objection to allow preaching in the public squares of Calcutta. The proposal originally made by Mr. Harrison in this connection, namely, that persons intending to preach should obtain permission from the Commissioner of Police was a very wise one. This would have, while throwing no obstacles in the path of all earnest preachers, prevented a certain number of frivolous and irresponsible young men from creating disturbance. But this proposal has not been adopted, and all preaching has been temporarily prohibited at the instance of a Commissioner of the Calcutta Municipality. The arguments, however, which were advanced by him in support of his proposal are utterly unsound. Considering that the rate-payers do not object to preaching in the squares, and that those who listen to it are orderly in their behaviour and do not in any way cause any damage to the flower plants and the trees which have been planted there by the Commissioners, there does not appear the least necessity for the interference of the police. One might, on the same plea, urge the discontinuance of the service of the band at the Eden Gardens.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
May 7th, 1881.

14. We extract the following paragraph from the *Sulabha Samachar*, of the 7th May:—The cash balance of the Postmaster of Rajshahye, having been found short by Rs. 200, a prosecution was instituted against that officer and a certain clerk of the local Money Order Office. The Postmaster, a European, was simply dismissed, but the clerk, a native, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment. A few days after this occurrence, Baboo Suryyakumar Ganguli, Examiner of Postal Accounts, came to inspect the accounts of the Rajshahye Post Office, and his examination of the books showed that the deficiency was altogether fictitious; but that an error having been made in debiting a certain item,

The case of a poor clerk in the Rajshahye Post Office unjustly suffering imprisonment.

the credit side of the accounts showed an excess of Rs. 200. It is now, however, eight or nine months since the poor clerk was imprisoned, and he has all along been rotting in jail. It now behoves the Postmaster-General to procure the release of this unfortunate man without a moment's delay. Will the law in his case prove as unalterable as that of the Medes? Who is it that will now suffer imprisonment? In our opinion, a deserving person should be found in the Post Office to enjoy this honor.

15. The *Tripurá Vártāvaha*, of the 7th May, would again impress upon Government the great necessity of excavating a canal at Daudkandi, and is sorry that the Magistrate, Mr. Toynbee, is opposed to the scheme. The excavation of the proposed canal will promote communication, and impart a stimulus to the trade of this part of the country.

TRIPURA VARTAVAHA,
May 7th, 1881.

16. The *Sádháraní*, of the 8th May, regrets to have to ask whether, out of deference to the wishes of a number of self-seeking zemindars, Government has really given up its intention to fix by law the relations between landlords and tenants in this province. The utterances of Baboo Jayakrishna Mookerjee, at the last meeting of the British Indian Association, would lead one to suppose that the Rent Bill will now be indefinitely shelved. Throughout the controversy occasioned by the framing of this Bill, the zemindars have shown themselves to be extremely hostile to the interests of the ryots, and have raised frivolous objections to the exercise of any interference on the part of the Legislature. Their protests notwithstanding, it cannot be denied that until the rights, privileges and responsibilities of landlords and tenants are clearly defined by law, disputes between the parties will never be at an end. The passing and enforcement of a new law will indeed cause a temporary slight friction and unpleasantness, but that should not deter Government from undertaking a really useful measure. The Editor is of opinion that the recent efforts of Government to place the law of landlord and tenant on a more satisfactory basis were not marked by hastiness. What could, therefore, be more humiliating or disappointing than that Government, moved by the protests of the zemindars, should now, after so much discussion, give up its resolve to define the tenant's right or set itself with a view to conciliate a parcel of worthless landowners, to extinguish this right by laying down such provisions in the law as that the ryot must produce rent-receipts for 42 years to prove uniformity of payment?

SADHARANI.
May 8th, 1881.

17. Referring to the recent mal-treatment of a certain native student of the Shibpore Engineering College by Mr. Fouracres, the Superintendent of the Workshop, the same paper asks Government to remove him from his present post. He has lost the confidence of his pupils. The writer takes the occasion to reply to the remarks made by a correspondent of the *Statesman* to the effect that the boys should not be encouraged in acts of insubordination, and that native lads should eschew their false notions of respectability and take to manual labour. It is observed by the Editor that the pupils only ask for courteous treatment, and that it is precisely because natives of Bengal, at least those that belong to the middle classes, have not yet taken to menial occupations, but would only do such work as required a knowledge of reading and writing for its performance, that they occupy the foremost position among the people of India.

SADHARANI.

18. The same paper contains an article on the recent deputation to Lord Hartington on the subject of education in India, and the reply made by His Lordship. The observations are similar to those noticed in paragraph 9.

SADHARANI.

High education versus Mass education.

DACCA PRAKASH,
May 7th, 1881.

High education versus Mass education.

19. - On the same subject, the *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 7th May, also makes similar observations.

SOM PRAKASH,
May 9th, 1881.

20. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Som Prakásh*, of the 9th May :—The Romanization movement threatens to become one of those obstinate diseases which defy all medical treatment. It differs from a disease, inasmuch as it is not confined to the patient alone but harasses the whole people. It is a monstrous creation, and what is to be regretted is that Government has become connected with it, witness the reply given by the Lieutenant-Governor to the letter of the British Indian Association on this subject. The question arises, what chance is there of the movement being successful? Do the promoters hug the notion that the people will prefer the new alphabet to their own which is old and of native origin? Does the new system possess recommendations similar to those possessed by Manchester piece-goods or the railway? If it does not, some compulsory legislation including provisions for the infliction of fines and corporal punishments on defaulters will be necessary to ensure its success. The introduction of the system into the courts also will not secure this object. The language of the courts is distinct from the language of the people. So will the Roman Akshar remain distinct from their alphabet.

The Roman Akshar Samaj.

21. The *Sahachar*, of the 9th May, makes the following observations in an article headed the "Vernacular Press Act":—We are gratified at finding that the liberal leaders are gradually fulfilling the promises which they had made regarding this country. They have given up Candahar in disregard of the counsels of selfish persons and made a contribution from the English Exchequer to the cost of the Afghan War. Lord Hartington has urged on the Government of India the necessity of repealing the Vernacular Press Act, and amending the Arms Act. Every thing will now depend upon Lord Ripon. We warn him that he should guard himself against the selfish counsels of his civilian advisers, who are pledged to the support of the measures named above. These men all love irresponsible authority and cannot brook independence in natives, and it is next to impossible that they will ever advocate the adoption of any liberal policy. The reply of the Government of India to the despatch of the Secretary of State refers to the desirability of consulting the local Governments. But there is no reason why this should be done. Is it at all likely that Sir Ashley Eden, Sir George Couper, or Sir Robert Egerton will express himself in favour of repealing the Press Act? Is it possible for men who regard the plain utterances of the educated natives as language of sedition to be liberal? It therefore behoves Lord Ripon to rely upon his own judgment in this matter. We claim the perfect liberty of speech and writing, and representative Government at no distant date.

SAHACHAR,
May 9th, 1881.

The Vernacular Press Act.

22. The same paper approves generally of the views expressed by the Lieutenant-Governor in his recent resolution on the number of Sub-Deputies and Canoongoes in this province. The Editor is, however, of opinion that the order laying down that the Sub-Deputies will not have any longer the charge of treasure chests and that Sub-divisional Officers shall, during their cold weather tours, themselves manage the business of the treasury for the first seven days of the month, will cause hardship to the people in the mofussil. It will be very difficult to obtain postage stamps or cash in exchange for currency notes.

SAHACHAR.

Sub-Deputies and Canoongoes.

23. By some curious freak of fortune, remarks the same paper, has Mr. Stokes come to fill the office which was once held by a Macaulay, a Maine, and a Stephen. All his efforts to obtain fame have

SAHACHAR.

The new Criminal Procedure Code Bill.

proved ineffectual. He has gained instead a notoriety for his ignorance and mischeivous legislation. Mr. Stokes was but a tool in the hands of Lord Lytton. His new Criminal Procedure Code Bill is a production which is marked by extreme partiality, and if passed into law, will lead to a violation of the promises made by Her Majesty. The grossly invidious distinction made between Europeans and natives as regards the punishment which may be awarded to offenders in sections 32, 33, 31, 35, 446, 416 and 449 is an illustration of this remark.

24. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 10th May, asks the Lieutenant-Governor to carefully consider the proposal adopted by the District Road Cess Committee of Burdwan to increase the salary of their

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 10th, 1881.

Mr. Stoney, the District Road Cess
Engineer of Burdwan.

Engineer, Mr. Stoney. There was not the least justification for at once raising his pay from Rs. 350 to Rs. 500. It was a clear case of waste of public money.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 14th May 1881.

